

Compromise Seen As More Difficult

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UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 25—Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko today publicly attacked "falsehoods" and "propaganda" being spread about Russians and Cubans amid reports that he has taken an unyielding diplomatic position on the issue of Soviet combat troops in Cuba.

Gromyko's tough remarks in his policy speech to the General Assembly suggested there is no chance for a compromise settlement of U.S. charges that a Soviet combat brigade was secretly established on the Caribbean island.

It was unclear, however, whether Gromyko's remarks represent a final Soviet position. State Department spokesman Hodding Carter, speaking for Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, said, "We are still in the midst of discussions with the Soviet Union on the Soviet brigade in Cuba" and that Vance and Gromyko are to take up the matter again Thursday afternoon.

Gromyko has been scheduled to leave New York for home at the end of this week and there was no word whether his stay will be extended. Failure to make progress toward resolution of the dispute or to establish a negotiating path that holds promise of working out a settlement would trigger U.S. "compensatory action" and place Senate ratification of the SALT II treaty in jeopardy.

Gromyko's General Assembly address today, like that of Vance in the same forum 24 hours before, included a brief section that addressed the Soviet brigade issue without explicitly saying so. Thus the Russian, like

Vance, took a strong position without openly addressing the issue under discussion in secret talks of the nuclear superpowers.

Without mentioning the combat brigade, Gromyko charged that "all sorts of falsehoods are being piled up concerning the policies of Cuba and the Soviet Union."

"But the truth is that this propaganda is totally without foundation. It has no real basis and is indeed based on falsehoods. The Soviet Union and Cuba have already so declared."

Without saying to whom it was addressed, the top Soviet diplomat added: "Our advice on this score is simple: it is high time you honestly admit this whole matter is artificial and is proclaimed to be closed."

In Washington, reaction to the Gromyko speech was harsh. Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, recommended that his committee delay sending the SALT treaty to the Senate floor until something is done about the troops in Cuba.

Senate Republican leader Howard H. Baker of Tennessee said he was "astonished" by Gromyko's speech. "There is simply no basis for doubting that the Russians have a fully equipped, fully manned combat brigade in Cuba," he said.

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Gromyko introduced his comments by saying that "a huge number of spurious films, books, articles and speeches of politicians and quasipoliticians are produced to make people believe the fictitious stories about the source of a threat to the peace."

The Soviet Union maintained in a front-page Pravda editorial two weeks ago that its troops constitute a long-standing "training center" for Cuban forces, not a combat brigade as the United States has charged. Gromyko is reported to have stuck to this Soviet position during his meeting with Vance late Monday.

Last Thursday, Vance presented several suggestions to the Kremlin through Soviet Ambassador Anatoliy F. Dobrynin, ranging from withdrawal of the Russian brigade to face-saving arrangements under which the Soviet force would be stripped of its "combat capability" even though individual soldiers remained.

The Gromyko speech added to the pessimism over whether accommodation can be worked out. However, Vance reportedly has not abandoned hope for a shift in the Soviet posture during private talks.

In a separate section of his address, Gromyko stressed the importance of U.S.-Soviet ties, saying durability and



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Secretary of State Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko are to meet again on troops issue tomorrow.

stability of world peace depends "to an important extent on the state of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States."

Soviet leaders seek normal and even friendly relations with the

United States, Gromyko said. He added that this requires adherence to principles of "peaceful coexistence" and "noninterference in the affairs of others."

Gromyko declared, "We shall not al-

low anybody to meddle in our internal affairs. Concern for Soviet-American relations is a matter for both sides. It is only on this basis that the relations between the U.S.S.R. and the United States can develop successfully."